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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/761,203 | FICCO ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | HELEN SHIBRU | 2621 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 and 21-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-18 and 21-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05/31/2007.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendments, filed 06/13/2007, have been entered and made of record.

Claims 1-18 and 21-35 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 06/13/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. See the reasons sets for the below.

The attorney of record stated that an agreement was reached during the interview conducted on April 17, 2007. The Examiner disagrees. No agreement was reached. The Examiner clearly stated that she will further analyze the argument brought by the attorneys of record and couldn't agree or disagree during the interview. It is noted that the argument upon which the Applicant relies is not supported by the present application disclosure. On the remarks the Applicant states "During the examiner interview it was agreed that a user warning regarding disk space is not the same thing as a disk alert user setting. **For example, a user setting allows a user to specify the amount of remaining disc space that should trigger a warning (emphasis added).**" Applicant attention is directed to the present application figures 9, 13(C) and paragraph 0110 in the PG Pub where it shows set-out-of-disk alert times selected by the user. As disclosed in the present application, the user is setting alert times (e.g. 60 minutes, 45 minutes...) as shown in fig. 13(C) not the amount of remaining disk space as stated on the remarks.

The applicant states “Kikuchi and the Office action indicates that this warning message is based on a predetermined value (Office action page 2, lines 18 and Kikuchi col. 3 lines 28-39).”

The Examiner directs Applicant attention to the cited columns and lines by the Applicant. Kikuchi in col. 3 lines 28-39 discloses that when a free space or area that remains on a medium having a limited storage amount becomes smaller than a predetermined value as a result of information recording on the medium at a variable recording rate, calculating the remaining recordable time on the medium on the basis of the free space and **variable recording rate**; and a process for displaying the variable recording rate and the remaining recordable time at that variable recording rate on the basis of the result of the remaining recordable time calculation process. Now the applicant attention is directed to col. 53 lines 42-50 in Kikuchi where it teaches that the **user is setting the recording rate** manually. See fig. 34 and 42 and col. 53 line 51-col. 54 line 41 as well.

Furthermore Kikuchi discloses the user specifies recording programs to be reserved (N programs) while observing the “timer recording menu” (see col. 63 lines 1-9). Kikuchi further teaches upon specifying the programs to be reserved, the user specifies requires programs, their recording times and one of picture quality modes (see col. 53 lines 63-col. 54 line 41 regarding the picture quality and recording bit rate). Kikuchi further teaches disc space alert is displayed if the recording amount exceeds the remaining amount of disc 10. Kikuchi further discloses the user decreases the number N of programs to be reserved or decreased the reserved times of one or more reserved programs (i.e. the user is setting different remaining amount). If the remaining amount of disc 10 can cover the recording amount, MPU stores (remaining amount-auxiliary amount-recording amounts) in register “Lftsp” indicating **a new remaining amount**. See col. 63

lines 10-41. If the remaining amount stored in "Lftsp" cannot record all the programs, MPU 30 displays a warning message.

The claimed invention does in fact read on the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above and as stated in the detail Office Action as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(d) the invention was first patented or caused to be patented, or was the subject of an inventor's certificate, by the applicant or his legal representatives or assigns in a foreign country prior to the date of the application for patent in this country on an application for patent or inventor's certificate filed more than twelve months before the filing of the application in the United States.

4. Claims 1-7, 17-18, 23-30, and 32-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kikuchi (US Pat. No.6, 577, 811).

Regarding claim 1, Kikuchi discloses Kikuchi discloses an apparatus for displaying the status of a digital video recording device, comprising:

a memory for storing a plurality of selectable status parameters (see col. 17 line 66-col. 18 line 9 and col. 45 lines 8-21) indicating functionality of the digital video recording device (see col. 29 lines 19-30 and fig. 26 microcomputer block (30)), wherein one of said plurality of selectable status parameters is an out of disk alert user setting (see col. 57 lines 35-63, fig. 34 ST14, fig. 60. see also col. 54 lines 7-41 and col. 61 line 61-col. 62 line 2, and col. 44 lines 24-30);

a processor for controlling a display of said plurality of status parameters (see fig. 27, 58-59, 62 and 66) based on received commands to access said memory, so as display at least a selected one

of the plurality of status parameters (see col. 29 lines 19-36, col. 30 lines 23-41, col. 61 lines 19-31, col. 63 lines 10-19, and fig. 26 in microcomputer block (30) MPU).

Regarding claim 2, Kikuchi discloses the status display apparatus wherein an interface (remote control see fig. 28) enables a user to send said commands to display said selected status parameter via said processor (col. 63 lines 10-19).

Regarding claim 3, Kikuchi discloses the status display apparatus wherein said interface is selected from a remote control device, or from execution keys or buttons provided on the digital video recording device (see col. 31 lines 21-27 and in fig. 28 5tme and 5m).

Regarding claim 4, Kikuchi discloses the status display apparatus of wherein said memory and processor are contained within the digital video recording device (see col. 17 line 60-col. 18 line 9).

Regarding claim 5, Kikuchi discloses the status display apparatus wherein said processor controls display of a status menu for selection of at least one the plurality of status parameters (see fig. 27, 58-59, 62 and 66 and col. 17 line 66-col. 18 line 9) based on reception of a command to display the status menu by a user (see col. 29 lines 15-34).

Regarding claim 6, Kikuchi discloses the status display apparatus wherein the user manipulates keys of a remote control (see fig. 28 remote control) to transmit commands to said processor to display said status menu on a display device (see col. 44 lines 32-39) operatively connected to the digital video recording device, and further manipulates said remote control to graphically (menu) select a status parameter from said displayed status menu for display (see col. 44 lines 24-45).

Regarding claim 7, Kikuchi discloses the status display apparatus wherein a user manipulates designated keys or buttons of a remote control device, each designated key or button corresponding to each of said selectable plurality of status parameters (see col. 61 lines 19-29, col. 44 lines 11-19, and fig. 28 timer key (5tme) and display mode key (5dm)), and wherein the manipulated key or button causes the correspondingly selected status parameter to be displayed on a display device (see fig. 26 display of DVD recording (48) and fig. 33 monitor display (6)) operatively connected to the digital video recording device (see col. 39 lines 25-28 see fig. 26 display of DVD recording (48), fig. 27 main body (200), and fig. 33 monitor display (33)).

Regarding claim 17, Kikuchi discloses the status display apparatus wherein one of said plurality of selectable status parameters is notification indicating the approximate minutes of recording time still available while recording is in progress (see fig. 45 STEP 100 and col. 57 lines 30-39).

Regarding claim 18, Kikuchi discloses the status display apparatus wherein said notification is embodied as an out-of-disk space alert feature which is automatically displayed when the remaining available recording time equals a predetermined default value (see col. 57 lines 40-54 and col. 58 lines 3-16 and fig. 46. See also rejection of claim 1).

Regarding claim 23, Kikuchi discloses the status display wherein one of said plurality of selectable status parameters is a notification indicating the program length of a desired program to record and the approximate minutes of recording time still available while for recording (see fig. 49 step 50 and col. 61 line 61-col. 62 line 2).

Regarding claim 24, Kikuchi discloses notification is automatically displayed prior to or at the start of recording the desired program (see col. 61 line 15-18 and fig. 49 step 50).

Regarding claim 25, Kikuchi discloses notification is displayed as text message on a display device operatively connected to the digital video recording device (see fig. 49 step 50).

Regarding claim 26, Note to the Applicant: The USPTO considers the Applicant's "at least one of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing one of the subsequent corresponding elements. See figures 27, 58, 66, and 69.

Regarding claim 27, Kikuchi discloses a method of displaying the status of a digital video recording device on a display device operatively connected thereto, comprising; storing a plurality of selectable status parameters indicating functionality of the digital video recording device within a memory of the digital video recording device (see col. 17 line 66-col. 18 line 9, col. 29 lines 19-30, col. 45 lines 8-21, and fig. 26 microcomputer block (30)), wherein one of said plurality of selectable status parameters is an out of disk alert user setting (see rejection of claim 1 above); receiving commands to display at least a selected one of the plurality of status parameters; and accessing said memory to display said selected one of the plurality of status parameters on the display device based on said received command (see fig. 27, 58-59, 62 and 66, col. 29 lines 19-36, col. 30 lines 23-41, col. 61 lines 19-31, col. 63 lines 10-19, and fig. 26 in microcomputer block (30) MPU).

Regarding claims 28-30, the limitations of claims 28-30 can be found in claims 5-7 respectively. Therefore claims 28-30 are analyzed and rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 5-7 respectively above.

Claim 32 are analyzed and rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 1 above.

Claim 33 is analyzed and rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 4 above.

Regarding claim 34, Kikuchi discloses displaying an ou of disk space alert when an available recording capacity is less than or equal to the out of disk alert user setting (see rejection of claim 1 above).

Regarding claim 35, Kikuchi discloses the out of disk space alert user setting includes two or more values at which an out of disk space alert should be presented (see figures 58-62 and col. 57-col. 59 line 58).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 8, 13, 22, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Official Notice.

Regarding claim 8, the proposed combination indicated in the above rejection of claim 1 discloses operational control keys provided on the DVR (see fig. 27 in Kikuchi). However the proposed combination fails to specifically teach the keys are designated to select plurality of status parameters, and wherein the manipulated key or button causes the correspondingly selected status parameter to be displayed on a display device operatively connected to the digital recording device. Official Notice is taken that it is well known in the art to provide keys or

buttons on DVR that causes to display the status of the parameters on the display device (see col. 30 lines 52-56 and col. 31 lines 21-27 in Kikuchi). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include keys or buttons on the DVR as taught in the proposed combination in order to use the DVR as a control unit, rather than using only the remote control.

Regarding claim 13, claim 13 differs from Kikuchi in that the claim further requires the status display apparatus wherein one of said plurality of selectable status parameters is a disk gas gage feature indicating how much of a mass storage device operatively connected to the digital video recording device is consumed by recorded material. Official Notice is taken that it is well known in the art to indicate how much of the mass storage device is consumed by recorded material. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include disc gas gage feature indicating the amount of storage area available in order to warn the user in advance.

Regarding claim 22, Kikuchi discloses out-of-disk space alert has a video component (see fig. 58 and rejection of claim 1 above). Kikuchi fail to disclose out-of-disk space alert has an audio component. Official notice is taken that it is well known in the art to incorporate video with audio component. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an audio component in the DVR of Kikuchi in order to alert the user who is away from the display device.

Claim 31 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 8 above.

7. Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view Official Notice and further in view of Paulus (US Pat. No.6.678.757).

Regarding claim 14, claim 14 differs from Kikuchi in that the claim further requires the

disc gas gage feature is displayed in at least one of icon, pie-chart and bar-graph form and indicated the percent of the mass storage device capacity is used, and/or unused. Kikuchi fails to specify that the plurality of selectable status parameters is a disk gas gage feature, however Kikuchi discloses if the user presses end key send in the remote controller, the MPU checks the remaining amount of the storage (see col. 63 lines 10-19, fig. 47 Step 138, and fig. 69).

In the same field of endeavor Paulus discloses a memory meter in the form of bar graph (see col. 4 lines 34-36). Paulus further discloses the graph indicates the remaining and available area of the memory (see col. 4 lines 36-56 and fig. 2). Therefore, in light of the teaching in Paulus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kikuchi and Pijnenburg by providing a bar graph in order to indicate the state of a memory (see col. 1 lines 41-45 of Paulus).

Regarding claim 15, Note to the Applicant: The USPTO considers the Applicant's "at least one of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing one of the subsequent corresponding elements. The limitation of claim 15 includes a disk gas gauge feature is displayed in an icon form. Therefore claim 15 is analyzed and rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 13 and 21.

Regarding claim 16, Kikuchi discloses the status display apparatus wherein said mass storage device is selected from the group comprising at least a hard disk drive, a magnetic storage device and an optical storage device (see col. 8 lines 37-49, col. 46 lines 30-35, optical storage devices are magnetic).

8. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Fukushima (US Pat. No. 6,584,272).

Regarding claim 21, claim 21 differs from Kikuchi in that the claim further requires notification indicating the approximate minutes of recording time still available is displayed as an animated icon on a display device operatively connected to the digital video recording device. However, Kikuchi does disclose the remaining time available are displayed on both DVR and the monitor (see fig. 27 and REC TIME/ REMAIN TIME (48), fig. 45 Step 100, and fig. 58 recordable time, and col. 57 lines 30-39).

In the same field of endeavor Fukushima discloses the remaining allowable recording time displayed as a rectangular icon (see fig. 11 item (1102) and col. 13 lines 48-59). Further Fukushima discloses the remaining allowable recording time is displayed while recording is in progress (see fig. 11 REC (inside 1101) and col. 13 lines 38-44). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include an animated icon in the DVR of Kikuchi showing the recording time available in order to check the available space on the disc easily at a variable rate (see col. 13 lines 56-59 of Fukushima).

9. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi (US Pat. No.6, 577, 811) in view of Pijnenburg (US Pat. No. 6, 169,842).

Regarding claim 9, claim 9 differs from Kikuchi in that the claim further requires one of the plurality of-selectable status parameter is a current delay feature which displays how far a recording is behind a live-broadcast that is-in progress when a signal corresponding it to live broadcast is paused.

In the same field of endeavor Pijnenburg discloses simultaneous recording and reproduction system. Pijnenburg teaches a current delay feature which displays how far a recording is behind a live-broadcast that is-in progress when a signal corresponding it to live

broadcast is paused (see col. 3 line 53- col. 4 line 67). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kikuchi by including a system that displays how far a recording is behind a live-broadcast as thought by Pijnenburg in order to simultaneously reproduce, from the moment of being away, and record the signal.

Regarding claim 10, Note to the Applicant: The USPTO considers the Applicant's "at least one of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing one of the subsequent corresponding elements. Therefore the limitation of claim 10 is analyzed and rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 9 and 27 above.

10. Claim 11 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of TIVO manual for HDR110.

Regarding claim 11, claim 11 differs from Kikuchi in that the claim further requires one of the plurality of selectable status parameters is a live/recorded status feature that displays whether a program being viewed is either live or recorded.

In the same field of endeavor the TIVO manual for HDR110 discloses a status bar at the bottom of the display screen. The manual further discloses the bar is colored to indicate the recorded portion, and the live (see page 10-11). Therefore in light of the teaching in TIVO manual for HDR110, it would have been obvious to modify Kikuchi by providing a live/recorded status feature in order to help the viewer to keep track of the program.

For alternative analysis of claim 26, claim 26 is rejected again for the same reason as discussed in claim 11 above.

11. Claim 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view in view of TIVO manual for HDR110 and further in view of Official Notice.

Regarding claim 12, claim 12 differ from Kikuchi and Parasnis in that the claim further requires the word "LIVE" or "RECORDED" is displayed in flashing form for a finite period of time, depending on the status of the program being viewed. Official Notice is taken that it is well known in the art to provide words in flashing form to indicate the current status of the program being viewed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Kikuchi and the TIVO manual by displaying a word "LIVE" or "RECORD" in order to keep the user informed about the signal being transmitted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

12. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

13. Claim 10 recites the limitation "wherein the current delay" in line 1 of page 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The delay feature is not recited in claim 1.

Double Patenting

14. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

15. Claims 1, 6, 11, 14, 17, 23, and 26 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim1, 13-18 of copending Application No 09/836378 in view of Kikuchi (US Pat. No.6, 577, 811. See the reasons sets forth below.

The co-pending application claim 1 recites A digital video recorder, comprising: a memory for storing selected available content and a plurality of selectable status parameters indicating functionality of said digital video recorder the parameters includes at least one parameter related to the recording function of the digital video recorder; and a processor controlling a display of said plurality of status parameters based on received commands to access said memory, so as display at least a selected one of the plurality of status parameters.

Claim 1 differs from the copending Application in that the claim further requires one of said plurality of selectable status parameters is an out of disk alert user setting.

In the same field of endeavor Kikuchi discloses one of said plurality of selectable status parameters is an out of disk alert user setting (see col. 57 lines 35-63, fig. 34 ST14, fig. 60. see also col. 54 lines 7-41 and col. 61 line 61-col. 62 line 2, and col. 44 lines 24-30).

Therefore in light of the teaching in Kikuchi it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an out of disk alert in order to warn the user in advance.

The subject matter of claim 6 can be found in the co-pending application claim 13.

The subject matter of claim 11 can be found in the co-pending application claim 14.

The subject matter of claim 14 can be found in the co-pending application claim 15.

The subject matter of claim 76 can be found in the co-pending application claim 16.

The subject matter of claim 23 can be found in the co-pending application claim 17.

The subject matter of claim 26 can be found in the co-pending application claim 18.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Conclusion

16. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

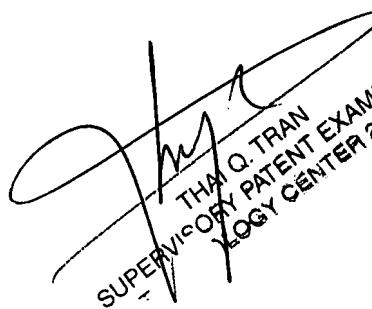
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HELEN SHIBRU whose telephone number is (571) 272-7329. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THAI Q. TRAN can be reached on (571) 272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Helen Shibru
August 22, 2007



THAI Q. TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600